

WEST VIRGINIA  
- MINERAL COUNTY

DRAWER 12A

OTHER STAKES

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# Other States

## West Virginia Mineral County

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

OHIO, SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 1927—

## TO REBUILD CABIN WHERE LINCOLN'S MOTHER WAS BORN

KEYSER, W. Va., April 16 (AP)—  
In the rugged hills of W. Virginia,  
where the mother of Abraham Lin-  
coln was born, the first log will be  
laid April 19 in the work of re-  
storing the cabin where Nancy  
Hanks first saw the light.

Nancy Hanks was born on the  
banks of Nike's Run, a clear moun-  
tain stream whose waters are gath-  
ered from the snows of the Alle-  
gheny Mountains and finally find  
their way to the Potomac River.

When the child who was to be  
the mother of a president was  
born, the spot was in Hampshire-  
co, Virginia, but is now in Miner-  
al-co W. Virginia.

Only recently did the home folk  
know that the historical spot in  
their midst was being neglected.  
The Rev. William E. Barton, D. D.,  
found among the records of Abra-  
ham Lincoln, notes pointing to the  
birthplace of his mother and a vis-  
it to Romney, the oldest town in  
W. Virginia, disclosed court records  
enabling him to locate the ruins  
of a log cabin, verifying the notes  
of the martyred president.



Katograpure  
Picture Section

Th



THE BIRTH-  
PLACE OF NANCY  
HANKS: JOSEPH DOLL,  
Owner of the Farm in Mineral County, W. Va., Where the Mother of President Lincoln Was  
Born, Pointing the Spot Where the House Stood, Which Is to Be Included in a Proposed  
State Park.  
(Coyd Yost.)

September 30, 1929

Mr. Andrew Price  
Marlington, West Virginia

Dear Sir:

Governor Conley has just advised me that you have been placed upon the commission appointed by him to determine the birthplace of Nancy Hanks.

Will you kindly advise when the commission is to make its report if the date has already been set?

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL

Director,  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.



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Phil Conley, Charleston  
Andrew Price, Chairman  
Marlinton

ALL THAT I AM OR EVER HOPE  
TO BE, I OWE TO MY MOTHER.  
—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

NANCY HANKS COMMISSION

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

LEGISLATURE OF WEST VIRGINIA 1929

Octo. 19, 1929

Dear Mr Warren:-

Having no office facilities for any great amount of correspondence your letter has remained unanswered for some weeks. In other words I am a country gentleman that has been swamped with letters owing to the Lincoln research and one other matter that occurred last summer.

The birthplace of Lincoln's mother is now definitely located by recorded deeds as being on the J. W. Doll farm, Antioch, Mineral County, West Virginia. This commission has passed on that fact and a report is about ready to be submitted.

My personal experience is contained in four articles printed in the Pocahontas Times, our family newspaper, containing about 12,000 words. All extra copies have long since been exhausted.

These articles were copied widely in other papers. If you would like to see them I should think that the Herald, Piedmont, W. Va., might send you copies.

I would be very glad however if you could come to West Virginia and look for yourself at the records and publications in this regard.

Rev. Dr William E. Barton, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., is the great authority on this subject. He was with us in September.

If you come to West Virginia, I would be glad to see you here but it is 140 miles south of Antioch.

There is a movement on foot to name a great road "The Nancy Hanks Highway."

I hope you will believe me when I say that if I had noticed that your letter was not the common run, that I would have answered promptly.

Very truly,

*Andrew Price*

Let me know if you come.

October 24, 1929

Mr. Andrew Price, Chairman  
Nancy Hanks Commission  
Marlinton, W. Va.

Dear Mr. Price:

I was very glad indeed to receive your letter and your kind invitation to visit you if I came to West Virginia.

This Foundation with which I am associated publishes a weekly broadside which tries to keep up with current movements in the field of Lincolniana.

A short time ago I prepared a discussion on the Nancy Hanks Lincoln birthplace which will appear in two issues coming from the press on next Monday.

There is no tendency on the part of the writer to in any way ridicule the honest work which has been done on this project by a great many people, but inasmuch as there is so much at stake in the findings of this Commission it seems proper to exhibit some of the documents which must be considered authoritative in this quest.

If you care for extra copies of this broadside I will be pleased to supply you with as many as you feel you can use, and I trust the discussion may make your Commission more determined to bring in a report which will be considered the last word on this question.

If there is any possible way I can be of assistance to you in this matter, will you kindly call upon me?

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL

Director,  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.



## OFFICERS

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## WEST VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CREATED BY CHAPTER 67, ACTS OF  
LEGISLATURE, PASSED APRIL 24, 1925.  
ORGANIZED AT CHARLESTON, DECEMBER  
30-1, 1925.  
ONE MEMBER FROM EACH COUNTY.

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October 31, 1929

Dr Louis A. Warren,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr Warren:-

I am obliged to you for your letter and Lincoln Lore, No. 28, and I am considerably impressed with your erudition in the history of Abraham Lincoln. I went out among the neighbors and secured the four faulty articles that I wrote in regard to my adventures in Lincoln Lore which were published in my brother's paper, The Pocahontas Times, a country weekly that has been in our family 37 years. We raised and educated a family of six on it and it has landed finally in the hands of my youngest brother, Calvin W. Price, but in all the 37 years I have had to contribute weekly to it. I have had a hard time practising law and attending to business matters, and my weekly articles are anything but profound. Written on the jump so to speak. They are very extensively copied and I suppose I either ought to stop writing or do it right. I am enclosing the articles so that you can see my groping way. I do not sign them but the public have long since penetrated the penumbra of my anonymity. My attention to history is because my father, Rev. Dr Wm. T. Price, a Presbyterian minister, was a historian, and for the further reason that I was more or less forced to it to obtain weekly subjects over so many years.

I am an iconoclast. I do not subscribe to all the fables. My experience in court matters leads me to distrust evidence. I am almost ready to say that we have too many facts in history and not enough truth.

You will see that my main work was to locate the tract of land on which Joseph Hanks gave a mortgage in 1784.

Let me observe that the marriage bond in Washington County is not conclusive as to where the bride lived. That is still the law in Virginia and is regarded very lightly by many clerks and the brides have a way too of claiming residence by being there for a day. If Richard Berry was guardian he must have been appointed by some record in that or some other county. The name "Gardin" is out of place on the marriage bond, he being surety for the groom.

I have called Dr Barton's attention to the fact there is no certainty about the movement west by the Joseph Hanks family in 1784. It is pretty certain that they did not go that year. It may have been as late as the spring of 1787. Also that there is no certainty of the time that Joseph Hanks arrived in Hampshire County. The recording of the settlement in Richmond County by Joseph Hanks, Administrator, could have been easily attended to by agent, messenger, or on a casual visit back.

If Nancy Hanks was born in 1785, it would suit my ideas of logic much better than earlier.

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2

You would have to come to West Virginia to study the mountains and the trails to understand George Washington's diary of his journey through Dolls Gap in September, 1784.

There is some significance too in Charles Friend who no doubt hunted from the Hanks cabin in Hampshire County, being connected with the family after they moved to Kentucky.

What impresses me with Dr Barton's reasoning is that in comparatively recent times so far as Virginia court and mortality records go is that a Joseph Hanks and wife and nine children moved from Richmond County. A man of the same age and number in family was in Hampshire County in 1782, and a man of the same name with a large family died and left a will in Kentucky. Dates, places, and route of travel are about the best evidences of the identity of the man.

I would like very much to see the original of the signature of Lucy Hanks to the paper dated April 26, 1790. I cannot quite accept your theory that she was trying to use the title "Widow." It looks more like she had tried to write "Lucey" with a faulty quill and had been given another pen and started to sign over again.

Lucy's name not being in the will might be accounted for by the indictment for fornication; by her being well provided for; by her being a married woman; by the legacies being inconsiderable to the each of the daughters named; and that he had a child or children not named is intimated by the remainder of his whole estate to his wife for life and afterward to be divided between "all" his children, a usual form when part of the children have been specifically named in such a document.

In conclusion, let me say that you will have to make allowances for me as a historian. It looks like I will have to keep on writing weekly articles if I survive, for the same reason that the man could not let go of the bear's tail.

Come over and see us.

Very truly,

*Andrew Price*



November 2, 1929

Mr. Andrew Price  
Marlinton, West Virginia

My dear Mr. Price:

I appreciate very much your kindness in sending me the complete printing of your very interesting article, "A Tangled Skein."

The position you occupy as contributor to the paper in possession of your family is fully appreciated, as I had the task of editing a newspaper at Hodgenville, Kentucky for a period of about three years.

It was during this time that I began to take an interest in the Lincoln question as it was in Hodgenville where he was born. You can imagine the queries which would come to me as editor of the paper relative to the paternity of Lincoln which was then being discussed quite widely in Kentucky, and continued to be a debatable question for many years.

The task before your commission is a very interesting one and I hope you will not hurry your investigation until some of the other traditions are fully investigated.

I did not think the broadsides which I published on this question was any place to discuss any of the other traditions related to the subject, but I am now very glad to give you such information as will assist you to make a personal investigation which I feel might come nearer to solving the problem than the contact which you now have.

It is necessary for me to ask that you do not make this contact known to any one until it has been given a thorough investigation.

I have before me now a letter written by a grandson of Joseph Hanks of Kentucky dated January 26, 1895. In this letter he says; "Grandfather told us that an estate of some 660 acres was rightfully his, having been unlawfully held by his elder brother whom I think was named Joshua. This estate was located in Green Brier County, Virginia."



If the Hanks home can be located here I think some other facts which I have discovered can be woven into the story so that the findings of your commission would have a good documentary basis. Since you live in the adjacent county to Green Brier I feel you are just the one to make these investigations and I am positively it will be well done.

Of course I am acquainted with the work of the Hanks family by Dr. Barton, but he has become so bitter in his denunciation of my efforts that I do not care to antagonize him further. For many years I gave him duplicate copies, gratis, of all the Hanks and Lincoln records which I discovered, including the record of the charge of fornication against Lucy Hanks. It was this lead which led him to make a personal investigation along this line.

I wish you might see the original Lucy Hanks certificate and there are many others that would like to have that privilege. If some handwriting expert had the opportunity and the paper was tested for ink spots I feel sure that much of this labor we are expending would be saved. But the certificate is no longer available in the Mercer County records. I went there for the purpose of having it photographed and it was not to be found.

It will give me much pleasure to assist you in any way possible in developing the Green Brier County investigations but I have always found that best progress could be made by one or two working quietly. I must urge again that you consider this lead confidential and I shall get together some more evidence which I think will help to locate the Virginia home from which the Hankses moved to Kentucky in Green Brier County.

Will you please advise your associates on this commission that the attitude of this foundation in their task is entirely sympathetic and we shall be pleased to render any service possible in this effort.

Let me hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:S

November 4,

Dear Dr Warren:

I have before me your letter and enclosure to Governor Conley with request to write you direct. I wrote you more than you will read perhaps the other day, so consider the conversation open.

Very truly,

*Andrew Price*



## MEMBERS

Mrs. A. A. Pickering,  
Rowlesburg  
John M. Crawford,  
Parkersburg  
W. H. Barger, Keyser  
Phil Conley, Charleston  
Andrew Price, Chairman  
Marlinton

ALL THAT I AM OR EVER HOPE  
TO BE, I OWE TO MY MOTHER.  
—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

## NANCY HANKS COMMISSION

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

LEGISLATURE OF WEST VIRGINIA 1929

November 4, 1929

Dear Dr Warren:-

About the first part of September, this year, I went to Monroe County to make a speech at an unveiling of a monument to a Revolutionary Soldier. I stayed all night with some friends, the Dicksons. The next day my host, Hon. Clarence Dickson, Second Creek, W. Va., said he would go along to the meeting. At Union we were thrown on a difficult detour to the east and some where on that road, not far from Dropping Lick Run, Mr Dickson said: "There is the old Hanks' house." It was an ancient dilapidated structure. My friend informed me that as far as he knew the name was not known in the county any more. The old homestead is a melancholy sight.

Greenbrier County was formed in 1777 and took in about half of the present territory of West Virginia in the southern part. Monroe was formed wholly from Greenbrier in 1799.

I find four original grants from an index that I have in my office to the Hanks as follows:

Greenbrier	Wm. Hanks,	1797	80 acres	Foot of Little Mountain
Monroe	Caleb Hanks	1838	21 acres	Turkey Creek
"	Same	1838	74 acres	Dropping Lick Creek
"	John Hank	1846	500 acres	Dropping Lick Creek

All these grants seem to have been close together. Turkey Creek is at the foot of Little Mountain. The road crosses a little divide to Dropping Lick Creek which is also at the foot of Little Mountain. Both streams are part of Indian Creek basin. I am pretty sure that old house was between Willow Bend and Rock Camp. All in Monroe County, West Virginia, in a recently discovered oil and gas field.

I have no doubt that the records of Greenbrier County and Monroe County would throw a lot of light on these Hanks's. I live in Pocahontas County the most northern of the Greenbrier Valley counties. These are all blue grass counties, very pleasing to visitors. Convenient to the White Sulphur Springs.

If you decide to come to investigate I could meet you at the White Sulphur Springs which is on the edge of Greenbrier County, near Monroe, and introduce you to the country.

I would expect to find that William Hanks established a residence prior to 1797 and that his descendants lived there until recent years.

Lewisburg the countyseat of Greenbrier is 42 miles, and Union the county seat of Monroe 66 miles from my home, with a modern highway.

Very truly,





PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1201-S

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#### Received at

FAB9 11 COLLECT=MARLINGTON WVIR NOV 8 1150A

DR LOUIS A WARREN, AN ANSWER DATE=

-EXPECT TO MEET YOU MONDAY AT LEWISBURG ABOUT NINE OCLOCK=

-ANDREW PRICE. 1107A.

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

November 25, 1929

Mr. Andrew Price  
Marlinton, West Virginia

My dear Mr. Price:

My delay in writing to you has been due to a rather extended visit which I made in Virginia attempting to trace down every known tradition about the Hanks family, and I have come back with a very large amount of data.

I have not had time as yet to go over it and make comparisons, but as soon as I do, I will let you know what my conclusions are with reference to the West Virginia notations.

I certainly enjoyed the two days spent with you, and want to thank you for your kind hospitality.

Of one thing I am certain, and that is that the Governor has made a wise selection in the Chairmanship of his Commission and that the Commission will do its utmost to place their findings upon a documentary basis.

If I can be of any further assistance to you or your Commission, will you kindly call upon me.

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL

Director,  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

December 5, 1929

Mr. Andrew Price  
Marlinton, West Virginia

My dear Mr. Price:

I have just had the photographs finished  
which I took on our little trip in Greenbrier County.

If you can use any more of these I should be  
very glad to send them upon your request.

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL  
Enc.

Director,  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

P.S. I have already forwarded a set to Mrs. Jesse  
L. Hines.



Keyser, West Va.  
September 24th 1930.

Dr Louis A Warren  
E D I T O R \* \*  
Lincoln Historical Research  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

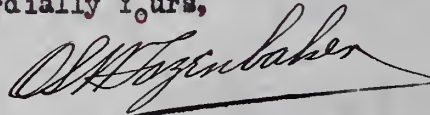
My dear Doctor:-

I have one copy of Lincoln Lore dated October 21st., 1929, one of October 28th., 1929 and one of December 9th., 1929., Nos 28, 29 & 35 respectively. If there are numbers between 29 and 35 I would be glad to be furnished with ten copies each as well as ten copies of Nos., 28, 29 and 35, also ten of any issues since No. 35, if available.

Any cost in connection with the furnishing of the above will gladly be taken care of by me on presentation or notification of bill.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially Yours,



O S W Fazenbaker.

MG-OSWF

State of West Virginia  
House of Delegates  
Charleston

Keyser, WestVa.  
October 4th., 1930.

Miss Ethel Hennesford  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation  
Fort Wayne- Ind.

Dear Miss Hennesford:-

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter  
September 29th enclosing copies of Lincoln Lore Nos 50, 55 and 64.

During the last session of the West Virginia Legislature I introduced a resolution requesting the Governor to appoint a committee to determine the birth-place of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln. Resolution was passed, committee appointed the fact established that she was born in Mineral County, the county I represented at the last session of the legislature. Now it is the intention to ask the state at the next session of the legislature for an appropriation with which to erect some kind of a marker on the spot where Nancy Hanks was born and the more information I have concerning Lincoln and the family the better chance I will have to accomplish what I started out to do. With this in view I am writing to ask if you will kindly send me the other sets concerning Lincoln enumerated in your letter of September 29th.

Dr Warren was correct in his assumption regarding the issues which dealt only with the Hanks family that I was interested in at the time, but it may be that I can derive valuable information from the balance which will go quite a long way in obtaining the desired result.

Your letter states Nos 28, 29 and 35 are not available. I am again mentioning them with the thought in mind that perhaps you had run across these copies and that I might be able to get hold of same.

With best wishes and thanking you, I am

Cordially Yours,

*O S W Fazenbaker*

16  
ALF WALKER, SECRETARY



S. M. SCOTT, JR., PRESIDENT  
TERRA ALTA

ROY B. COOK  
CHARLESTON

F. B. HAYMAKER, VICE-PRES  
CLARKSBURG

MARION H. JUDY  
PETERSBURG

WEST VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF PHARMACY

CHARLESTON, W. VA.

April 12, 1932.

Dear Doctor Warren:-

I am mailing on to you a letter and a blue print that I find filed in some of my papers. You perhaps have the same thing, but if not, there may be something of passing interest.

While it would be opposite to a statement set down by Lincoln could it have been that his mother was a daughter of a MRS. Hanks, a daughter-in-law of Joseph? That is, she was a widow, living with her husbands family and the child born after his death?

I am glad that you found something of interest in the article on "Washington's Lost Colony" that appeared in the West Virginia Review. But the real reason was because of the little Lincoln poem that appeared on the same page.

Faithfully,



Antioch, W. Va. August 24th., 1931.

Dr Roy Bird Cook,  
Charlestown, W. Va.

Dear Sir:

Having resided in this section for more than 50 years, and worked over our lands much as a Surveyor, and always interested along that line in what George Washington did for Lord Fairfax, I am addressing you at the request of Mr. Vause Marshall, of Williamsport, Grant County, W. Va.

When Washington surveyed our Patterson Creek Manor of some 10000 Acres in 1749, the same year he surveyed the South Fork Manor of the South Branch, he stopped overnight with one Issac Greenwell at what is now known as Reeses Mill, and recently the Geographical Magazine people wanted the location. I was able to define it by a young Cherry tree just recently planted by a friend of mine on the site of the old house. Also I have been at the Blue Rock where the upper end of the South Fork Manor ends and Washington & his men ate their dinner and on which said rock Washington placed an inscription, now obliterated by a road location, in the upper line of Lot 1 (20 lots in all). and (22 lots in our manor), and the day after staying at Greenwells he journeyed to one Silas Hedges, one of his Majesty's Magistrates, but I know of only one piece of land owned by Hedges, and that is on New Creek, and Washington would not I think, leave the waters of Patterson Creek to go to New Creek when on his way to the South Branch.

One of the most interesting books in my line is John W. Wayland's book The Fairfax Line, surveyed in 1746, from the head of the

Conway River a tributary of the Rappahannock, 75  $\frac{2}{3}$  miles, N.41° 40'W. and missed their objective 4 miles, ran a traverse line and corrected to S.46°E. and missed the starting point only 300 Ft. on their return. and I might add that I have done much surveying along and adjacent the Patterson Creek Manor, and also along the Northern Neck line the southern boundary of the Northern Neck or Fairfax holding, but while I like to work with any of the surveys, I was always most interested in those of Washington.

I noted in working on the South Branch Manor a year or two ago on Lot No 10 of the Manor about 5 miles from Romney that James W. Genn was the surveyor spoken of as doing the work for Washington, or at least we always thought Washinhton supervised the work.

On this lot 10 John Champe of Revolutionary fame lived for many years, not apparently interested in owning any land there, but he did take up a tract of 330 Ac. on Abrams Creek, and also 156 Ac. at the Crest of Allegheny Mt., and I have worked on them, the Run on the first named tract is named Johnny Cake because he camped there and baked his Corn Cakes on a board <sup>set up</sup> before the fire.

His house site can be seen on Lot 10, East side of River near the "Haunted Gate", probably named for the "Haunted Lick" nearby.

I live near the Nancy Hanks site and aided both Hon. Andrew Price and Rev. Wm. E. Barton in their search for it, in fact Thomas the oldest son of Joseph Hanks was uncle of my grandfather by marriage, and I take the liberty of sending you a copy of the Doll lands, which they have held 144 yrs., 2 Jacob Dolls, younger one got grant for 115½ Ac. 1812, including a little land on E. side of Hanks land, must have been afraid of his father's title, deeds for both parts of Hartman 216 Ac. recorded by error in Hardy Co. instead of Hampshire. Have large Co.



(3)

Map of Mineral County showing location of Nancy Hanks Place, ( I surveyed on it 30 years ago not knowing its name other than Dolls ownership at the time. Perhaps you read Mr Price's writing in the 1929, Year Book of our State, of the search for the proper location.

Thomas Hanks land was owned by our people after he left this section in 1800. I have a 3085 Ac. grant calls for his lines in 1794.

I count myself lucky that I was well acquainted with our lands and was able to definitely say where it was.

Price's writing explains what I knew about it.

Blue Prints can be had of me of the Doll lands and the County Map showing their location. I ate several meals in the old Hanks house before it was known as such.

I have written too much to take up your time.

Very Truly Yours,

*David G. Martin*  
Ex. Co. Surveyor of Mineral Co.

*The old Hardy Co. & Hampshire Co. line is now General's grant.  
Henry Ford has both my maps in his  
Lincoln collection - D.G.M.*



226

26  
Ma  
L

I.S. Ha

1931

New Creek Mountain  
Rees Company

Abrams / Ridge

Rees Company

Mykes Gap

*J. Clarence Alt*

Land Sketch  
Mineral County  
← W.Va. →

**Legend** Shows birthplace of Nancy Marks, the Mother of Abraham Lincoln.

*Ira Feaster*

Rebecca Dye et al. to George W. Doll  
18th Oct, 1875-100 Ac.

*J. H. Leatherman To Antioch 4 M.*

Top <sup>of</sup> Knobly Mountain

E.G. Kimmell

*I.S. Harris*

Surveyed for Jacob Doll Mar 13-1793.  
88 Ac.

Surveyed for Jacob Dell Sept. 27-1794  
100 Ac.

Peter Hartman to Jacob Purgate  
Nov 20-1787 Sw  
108 Ac.

Surveyed for Per  
216 Ac.

Joseph Hanks to Peter Putman Mortgage  
108 Ac. Mar 9-1784.

Peter Hartman to Jacob Doll.  
Sep. 10-1787

Surveyed for Jacob Doll Aug. 22-1811.  
 ———— " ———— " Oct. 13-1812.

Surveyed for Daniel & George W. Dell  
Sept. 5-1837.  
56 1/4 Ac.

1. Carstaden  
 to  
 George W. Dall,  
 116<sup>1/2</sup> Ave.  
 D.B. 3 Page 390.  
 1871.

Hickory &  
Black Oak

W. Oak  
Dogwood  
207 1/2

White Oak, Sugar  
corner to Bush 10 and Locust

*Large White*

Chapman, D. and  
Chapman, P.

314  
White Oak

230-24

SAINT TROPEZ

10/1/92

### Black Ops

2004

the Mathe

place of No  
f Abraham

by Banks,  
Lincoln

1



276

2 G  
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I.S. Har

Santa

Pa





April 19, 1932

Mr. Roy B. Cook  
West Virginia Board of Pharmacy  
Charleston, W. Va.

My dear Mr. Cook:

Thank you very much for calling to my attention the correspondence with Mr. David G. Martin, which you kindly enclosed.

If you do not have immediate use for this article I should like to file it with my information on the West Virginia Hankses.

Your theory that Lucy Hanks was married before she came to Kentucky is in harmony with my own and also in harmony with the descendants of Lucy Hanks still living in Kentucky.

Of course this is contradictory to the Barton theory, but, nevertheless, I believe it to be the true one.

I regret that a mistake was made in our last bibliography with reference to crediting the article in the West Virginia Review and I thank you for calling my attention to it.

Very sincerely yours,

Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:EB

5/6/1933



WEST VIRGINIA MARKS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE MOTHER  
OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN: THE DEDICATION OF A MONUMENT  
on the Site of the Cabin Near Keyser, W. Va., in Which Nancy Hanks  
Was Born, in Ceremonies Conducted by W. H. Barger, President of  
the Nancy Hanks Association.  
(Times Wide World Photos.)

W. Va.

WEEK BY WEEK

May 20-1933

## TABLET AT LINCOLN'S MOTHER'S BIRTHPLACE

*Compiled by HERBERT WELLS FAY, Custodian of Lincoln's Tomb.*

We are in receipt of a cachet from the Nancy Hanks Memorial Association announcing the dedication on Saturday, May 6, 1933, of a memorial for Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln at the site of her birthplace near Antioch, Mineral County, West Virginia. It is a large stone marker, with a bronze tablet 10x20, and a cut of the stone is printed on the envelope. At the right of the cut is a picture of Sarah Bush Lincoln, the step-mother of the President and at the left is a picture engraved from the German-Butler-McNulty Lincoln, the original negative of which is owned by the writer. As a matter of history there is no picture from life of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. The letter was mailed from Keyser, the county seat of Mineral County, West Virginia.

The birthplace was not generally known but several years ago Dr. Wm. E. Barton unearthed records locating the site of the log cabin and gave the facts to the world.



### *Tablet to Nancy Hanks Marks Birthplace in West Virginia*

1933

By The Associated Press.

KEYSER, W. Va., May 28.—A tablet memorializing Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, was unveiled today on the site of the cabin where she was born, nine miles south of here.

Over 2,000 witnessed the ceremonies, held under the sponsorship of the Nancy Hanks Association, the funds for the erection of the monument having come from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Earl Martin, attired as the Civil War President, unveiled the tablet.

The spot where the cabin stood was located by the late Andrew M. Price of Marlinton, W. Va., historian and editor. He was aided by records obtained in Hardy County, W. Va.



WEST VIRGINIA MARKS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE MOTHER OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN: THE DEDICATION OF A MONUMENT on the Site of the Cabin Near Keyser, W. Va., in Which Nancy Hanks Was Born, in Ceremonies Conducted by W. H. Barger, President of the Nancy Hanks Association.  
(Times Wide World Photos.)

J. C. Sanders

The Mountain Echo, Keyser,  
West Virginia,  
Thursday, June 15, 1933

"A Madonna of The West  
Virginia Mountains."  
Address delivered at  
the dedication of Nancy  
Hank's Memorial.



NANCY HANKS BIRTHPLACE  
MIKE'S RUN, MINERAL COUNTY  
WEST VIRGINIA

BY  
Leonora W. Wood

For more than a century historians and biographers have sought dilligently to establish the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln. No fewer than ten counties in three different states have laid claim to this honor, and at least three monuments have been dedicated to her memory.

At last it was agreed that her birthplace was somewhere on the eastern coast of Virginia, but family and court records had somehow failed to fix the elusive spot. Then came the late Dr. William E. Barton, of Foxboro, Massachusetts, in 1929, with the statement that a long and careful search had been rewarded; that he had uncovered unquestionable proofs that the mother of the Great Emancipator was born on Mike's Run, in what is now Mineral County, West Virginia.

At first, West Virginia historians were skeptical. Perhaps they had grown so accustomed to acceding "the mothers" of great men and events to Virginia, that they hardly had "state-confidence" enough to claim such an honor.

But facts which Dr. Barton presented were sufficiently convincing to demand a thorough investigation. A "Nancy

Hanks Commission" was duly appointed by the West Virginia Legislature. This Commission composed of : Honorable Andrew Price, Marlinton; Mrs. A. A. Pickering, Rowlesburg; W. H. Barger, Keyser; Charles N. Finnell, Keyser; D. G. Martin, Antioch; Miss Virginia Wood, Lost River; John M. Crawford, Parkersburg; and Phil Conley, Charleston; set to work determined to trace down every clue, and settle now and for all time, this "Riddle of Nancy Hanks's Birthplace."

Dr. Barton had found to his great surprise that the very county in Virginia in which Lincoln biographers had agreed that Nancy Hanks was born, the court records did not contain the name of "Hanks". The name "Hawks" appeared numerous times and had evidentially been mistaken for "Hanks".

The fact was well established that Nancy Hanks was the daughter of Lucy Hanks, and that her grandfather's name was Joseph Hanks. It was recalled that Lincoln had confided to his law-partner and friend, William H. Herndon, that his mother was the illegitimate daughter of Lucy Hanks, and that her father was a well-bred Virginia farmer and planter. But, Lincoln, whether he refrained because of his deep reverence for his mother, or whether he did not know the dates and events in his maternal line, did not give any of this history in the Campaign biography which he prepared soon after his election to Congress in 1860. It remained, therefore, for those who would know the Hanks' family history to go back nearly two hundred years, and to piece together the Links which had been broken and scattered, over State and County records of Virginia and West Virginia.



At the close of the Revolutionary War, that part of Virginia lying between the head waters of the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers known as the Fairfax Land Grant, was confiscated by the State of Virginia, and thrown open for settlement. There was a great rush into this section, and Joseph Hanks, Lincoln's grandfather, who had married Ann Lee, of the Virginia Lees, sold his farm and moved from Fordham Parish, Richmond County, Virginia, into the promising wilderness of Virginia.

Records of Joseph Hanks, Lucy's father, were easily traced up to the year 1780, when he returned to Richmond County to settle his mother's estate. The final settlement of her estate was made in 1784, but records of this settlement do not reveal his place of residence or from whence he came to make that settlement. And it was just here that a long line of historians had come to halt: Where was the abode of Joseph Hanks and his family from 1781 until 1785, at which time the records show he had lived near Rolling Fork of Salt River, in the hill country of Kentuck?

But thanks to the Bureau of Census of the United States-- this question too could be answered. The census reports for 1790 had practically all been burned when the British burned the Capitol in 1815. But, fortunately, forty of the eighty counties in Virginia were able to furnish lists of the citizens and taxpayers of their respective counties during the ten-year period preceeding 1790. "The Virginia enumeration of 1782 which was later incorporated in the First United States Census



in 1790, showed the family of Joseph Hanks, with a total of eleven persons, all white, residents in Hampshire County. The enumeration was made by Major Vincent Williams, within the two weeks ending September 24, 1782."

The names of the eleven persons were:

Joseph Hanks, age 54; his wife Ann Lee Hanks; their son Thomas, age 23; four younger sons and four daughters, the eldest of which was "Lucy", then seventeen.

The records of Hampshire County also reveal that Joseph Hanks purchased from Peter Hartman of Washington County, Maryland, a farm of 108 acres, situated on the drains of Mike's Run in Hampshire County, Virginia, being half of an original farm of 216 acres; that said Joseph Hanks in the spring of 1784 gave a deed of trust to one Peter Hartman on, for a loan of twenty-one pounds. That debt Joseph Hanks never paid, and the mortgage was foreclosed. But here, our biographers ran into one of the most baffling problems. The records of Hampshire County leave no trace of the deposition Peter Putman made of this tract of land, nor of its location, except that it was situated on Mike's Run.

But, the late Andrew Price, whom Governor Conley had appointed Chairman of the Nancy Hanks Commission, prided himself on being able to ferret out the knotty problems of old land records. This "Riddle" of Mike's Run had a solution, and he was determined to find it. Price says, "It came to me in the middle of the night that the solution would be found in the records of Hardy County,

in the court house in Moorefield. (Hardy County had been a part of Hampshire County until 1786, and because of its favorable location was settled very early after the wave of white men had broken over the crest of the Alleghenies). "That idea gained possession to such an extent that I pulled out for the South Branch the next morning, and it took one glance at the deed book, Number 1, to solve the puzzle, and account for all the parties and locate the land."

The original grant was made by Lord Fairfax, to Peter Hartman in 1811. It was re-entered in the name of Jacob Doll as 115½ acres, (see land grant book No. 6, page 104, in the office of the Auditor of West Virginia). The present owner is J. W. Doll, whose post office address is Antioch, West Virginia.

For the information of those who may wish to study the details of these land records, they are here given in full:

THIS INDENTURE made the Tenth day of September, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Eighty-seven, between Peter Hartman of the County of Washington and State of Maryland and Sharlotte, his wife of the one Part and Jacob Dull (Doll) of the County of Hardy, and State of Virginia, of the other part,

WITNESSETH: that for and in consideration of the sum of Twenty-two Pounds Current Money of Virginia by the said Jacob Dull (Doll) to the said Peter Hartman in hand paid at or before the sealing and Delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof the said Peter Hartman. Doth hereby acknowledge and thereof doth release, Acquit, and Discharge the said Jacob Dull, (Doll) his heirs, Executors and Administrators forever by these Presents,



they the said Peter Hartman and Sharlotte, his wife, Have and each of them Hath Granted bargained sold Aliened and Confirmed and by these presents do and each of them Doth Grant bargain Sell alien and confirm unto the said Jacob Dull, (Doll) his heirs and Assigns.

All that tract or parcel of Land Situate, lying and being in the parish of .....in the said County of Hardy, Containing One Hundred and Eight Acres being the one half of a patent of a Land for two Hundred and Sixteen Acres, Granted to the aforesaid Peter Hartman from under the hand and Seal of the right H'ble Thomas Lord Fairfax, Dated the Twenty Second day of March One Thousand Seven hundred and Eighty One reference thereunto being had will more fully and at Large appear.

BEGINNING at three white Oakes By a small rige and running thence S. 61 degrees East across a Drain of Mike's Run Ninty four poles to a hickory and black Oak on the North side of the Hobbly Mountain, thence along it South thirty-three degrees West one hundred Ninety two Poles to a white oake on the Side Hobbly, thence along a Straight Line of Markt trees North Sixty One degrees West Ninety four Poles to a Chestnut Oake in the original plat line, thence with the Original line to the beginning. And all house, out houses, Edifices, buildings, Yards, Carlens, Orchards, woods, underwoods, trees, ways, waters, watercourses, profits, Commodities, hereditaments and Appurtenances, whatsoever to the said tract or



parcel of Land belonging or in any wise-appertaining and the reversion and reversions, Remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof and also all the Estate, right, title, interest use, trust, possession, benefit property, claim and demand of them the said Peter Hartman and Sharlotte, his wife, of in or to the Same and all deeds, Evidences and writings touching or in any wise Concerning the Said Premises--

To Have and to hold the said tract of One hundred and Eight Acres of Land and premises hereinbefore Mentioned or intended to be hereby bargained and Sold with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said Jacob Dull, (Doll) his heirs, and assigns forever and the said Peter Hartman for himself, his heirs, Executors, and Administrators, Both covenant promise and Grant to and with the said Jacob Dull, (Doll) his heirs and Assigns by these present that he the said Peter Hartman now at the time of Sealing and Delivery of these presents is Seized of a perfect Indefeasible Estate of inheritance in fee simple of and in the tract or parcel of Land and hereby bargained and Sold with their and every of their Appurtenances that the said premises hereby bargained and sold now are and So forever hereafter Shall be and remain free and Clear and freely and Clearly Acquited Exonerated and discharged of and from all former and other Gifts, Grants, bargains, Sales, Leases, Intails, Jointers, dowers, title or titles of Dowers, Mortgages, Extents, Judgments and Executions, And all other titles, troubles, Charges and incumbrances Whatsoever. And lastly that he the said Peter

Hartman and his heirs the same Premises and every part and parcel thereof unto the said Jacob Dull, (Doll) his heirs, and Assigns against the Lawfull Claim title and Demand of all and every person and persons whatsoever shall and Will Warrant and forever Defend.

In Witness Whereof the Said Peter Hartman and Sharlotte, his wife, to these Presents have Set their, hands and Seals the Day and Year first Written.

Peter Hartman (Seal)  
Sharlotte Hartman (Seal)

Sealed and Delivered In Presence of Arjalon Price, Peter Putman, Mathias Brandinburger, Abr'm Johnson, Jun. John Vandiver, Andrew Smalley.

Received the 10th day of September 1787, of the Within Jacob Dull(Doll) Twenty-two Pounds Current Money it Bing the Consideration Money within Mentioned to Be by him Paid to me.

Peter Hartman.

Witness

Arjalon Price, Peter Putman, Mathias Brandinburger,  
Ab'm Johnson, Jun. John Vandiver, Andrew Smalley--

Memorandum that on the 10th day of September 1787, Peaceable, quite possession and Seizen of the Land and premeses within mentioned was held and taken by the within named Peter Hartman and by him was delivered to the within named Jacob Dull (Doll) to be held by him, his



heirs and Assigns forever Accord'g. to the true & Intent and meaning of the within Deed mentioned.

Witness my hand and Seal the day and Year first above Written.

Peter Hartman (Seal)

Witness--Peter Putman, Arjalon Price, Mathias Brandinburger, Abr'm. Johnson, Jun. John Vandiver, And. Smalley--

September Court, 1787--

Hardy County, Sct.,

This Indenture of Bargain and Sale Passed from Peter Hartman & Sharlotte, His wife, of the one part, to Jacob Dull (Doll) of the other Part, was Proved by the Oaths of Arjalon Price, Peter Putman, and Andrew Smalley, Witnesses thereto And Ordered to be Recorded.

Test. Edward Williams, C.H.C. "A true Copy;"

Attest; C. G. Wise, Clerk  
County Court, Hardy County.,  
West Virginia

Deed Book No. 1, Page 127.

In the court house in Romney records of Hampshire county, was found the following deed from Thomas Lord Fairfax to Peter Hartman for 216 acres:

The Right Honorable Thomas Lord Fairfax Baron of Cameron in that part of Great Britain called Scotland Proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia to all to whom this present writing shall come sends Greeting.



Know Ye that for good causes for and in consideration of the composition to me paid and for the annual rent hereinafter reserved I have given granted and confirmed and by these present for me my heirs and assigns to give grant and confirm unto Peter Hartman of Hampshire County a certain tract of waste & Ungranted land including the middle fork of Mike's run or the head thereof and in the said County bounded as by a survey thereof made by Elias Poston.

Beginning at 3 white oaks by a small ridge and running thence S. 61 E. across a drain of the said run 94 poles to a hickory and a black oak on the North side of Knobley Mountain thence along it S. 33 W. 384 poles to a white oak a sugar tree and a locust on the North side of the said mountain thence, N. 61 W. 94 poles to 3 white oaks on the S. side of New Creek Mountain and thence N. 33 E. 284 poles to the Beginning. Containing 216 acres together with all rights members purtenances thereunto belonging Royal mines excepted and a full third part of all Lead Copper Tin Coals Iron Mine & Iron Ore that shall be found thereon to have and to hold the said 216 acres of land together with all Rights, Profits, and Benefits to the same belonging to in any wise appertaining except before excepted to him the sd. Peter Hartman his heirs and assigns forever. He the said Peter Hartman his heirs and assigns therefore yielding & paying to me my heirs or assigns or to my certain attorney or attornies

agent or agents or to the certain attorney or attorneys of my heirs or assigns Proprietor of the said Northern Neck yearly and every year on the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel the fee rent of one shilling sterling money for every fifty acres of land hereby granted and so proportionably for a greater or lesser quantity Provided that if the said Peter Hartman his heirs and assigns shall not pay the said reserved annual rent as aforesaid so that the same or any part thereof shall be behind & unpaid by the space of two whole years after the same shall become due to legally demanded that there it shall and may be lawful for me my heirs or assigns proprietor as aforesaid my or their certain attorney or attorneys agent or agents unto the above granted premises to re-enter and hold the same so as if this grant should never pass.

Given at my office in Frederick County under my hand and seal. Dated the 22nd day of March, 1781.

FAIRFAX

In deed book No. 6, pp. 168-169 is recorded the following deed or indenture giving Joseph Hanks the Possession of the Northern one-half of the 216 acres deed to Peter Hartman by Fairfax, because of the following mortgage given to Peter Putman by Joseph Hanks, Hartman later foreclosed the mortgage and took the land back: This indenture made this ninth day of March in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred & Eighty four between Joseph Hanks of the County of Hampshire in Virginia of the



one part and Peter Putman of the same place of the other part witnesseth: That for and in consideration of the sum of twenty-one pounds, nine shillings current money of Virginia to the said Joseph Hanks in hand paid by the said Peter Putman; at or before sealing & delivering of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged.

He the said Joseph Hanks hath granted, bargained, sold, aliened and confirmed and by these presents doth grant, bargain & sell, alien and confirm unto the said Peter Putman a certain piece or parcel of land lying and being on Mikes Run a drain of Pattersons Creek in the said County; being a part of a survey made for Peter Hartman from and under whom the said Joseph Hanks hath right, containing by estimation one hundred and eight acres, For they conveyance whereof the said Joseph Hanks hath George Terrys Bond; with the appurtenances thereunto belonging: To make and to hold the said piece or parcel of aldn with appurtenances thereunto belonging to him, the said Peter Putman his heirs and assigns forever to the only proper use and behoof of him the said Peter Putman his heirs and assigns forever to the only proper use and behoof of him the said Peter Putman his heirs & assigns forever.

Provided always, and the true intent and meaning hereof is that in case the said Joseph Hanks, his heirs his executors or administrators shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid to the said Peter Putman, his heirs or assigns the aforesaid sum of twenty one pounds, nine shillings with



legal interest for the same from the date herof on or before the twenty fifth of September next ensuing and that without fraud or further delay. Then these presents and everything herein contained shall cease, determine and become utterly void. Anything herein contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding. And it is hereby covenanted and agreed between the parties that after default shall be made in the performance of the proviso above mentioned it shall and may be lawful for the said Peter Putman giving public notice thereof to make sale of the said piece or parcel of land to the highest bidder and out of the produce of said sale to detain the aforesaid sum of twenty-one pounds, nine shillings and interest and to pay the residue to the said Joseph Hanks, his heirs or assigns. And the said Joseph Hanks doth hereby fully empower the said Peter Putman and all others claiming by him or under to make such lawful conveyances of the land and appurtenances aforesaid to the purchaser or purchasers as shall be necessary for the purpose of assigning & conveying the same to him or them, his or their heirs or assigns forever.

In witness whereof the parties of these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above mentioned.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

Samuel Dew  
Betty Dew  
Philip Baker  
Henry Neiff

his  
Joseph X Hanks  
mark  
Peter Putman

At a court held for Hampshire County the 9th day of November 1784, Deed of Mortgage between Joseph Hanks of the one part and Peter Putman of the other part was proved in solemn form by Samuel Dew, Henry Neiff & Philip Baker witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded.

Test                      And. Wodrow, Cl:    Cur:

When the records of Hampshire and Hardy Counties had been pieced together, the facts were clear, and it seemed a simple matter to locate the farm on Mikes Run. However, the master problem of the century had not yet yielded to solution--there are just four "Mikes Run." And the one that for four years had been accepted as the only Mikes Run, held nothing that corresponded with the titles, and it took Andrew Price, the ingenious abstractor of land titles, just two years to make his way through this tangle of "Runs" and come at last through the Allegheny Pass, to the extreme head waters of Mikes Run, a branch of Patterson Creek, in New Creek District, Mineral County. But having at last come to the end of the long and rocky trail, there was no uncertainty--the titles and the land were "a complete whole."



No more fitting memorial could be preserved for Andrew Price, who died two years ago, (1932), than that which he penned in describing this spot made almost sacred by having cradled the mother of Lincoln.

"In all my experiences I have never seen such a hollow in the hills. The little stream branches and there is just room for the farm in this sheltered spot. It is a geological wonder. It is the kind of a glen that the fairies frequented. It is such a place as the Druids would have chosen for their ceremonies. It is the kind of place the Indians set aside as the earthly abode of Maniton where no mortal dared to tread. And it is the kind of place where peace comes dropping slowly from the wings of the morning to evening's dewey close."

Sunday afternoon, September 22, 1929, members of the Nancy Hanks Commission, together with Dr. William E. Barton, and over a thousand people, gathered in the beautiful glen on the crest of Allegheny Mountains and dedicated the land where they stood to Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln.

In 1933, one hundred and fifty years after her birth, biographers of the immortal Lincoln, could at last come with certainty to this shrine in the beautiful foothills of the Alleghenies, and pay homage to the mother, of whom Abraham Lincoln said, "All that I am, or ever hope to be, I owe to my mother."



Joseph Doll, the original purchaser, the neighbor of Joseph Hanks, died in 1798, but his descendants are still in possession, representing six generations on the same farm. The love of the land is in the Doll blood, and the three generations, Joseph Doll, his children and grand children, who live on the farm now are in love with their "Sylvian Valley", not because of the historical significance attached to it, but because they find here everything that they need for contented, prosperous living.

The Nancy Hanks Commission recommended that the State of West Virginia acquire the land as a State Park.

The log cabin in which Nancy Hanks was born had been torn down, but a cabin is now being built which will be as true a reproduction of the old home, as can be built from the description of Mr. Joseph Doll, whose grandfather razed the original cabin, and used the logs in a farmhouse which remains standing.

The present-day public has chosen to call the glen Dolls Gap, and future historians will speak of the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, as Doll's Gap, on Mikes Run, Mineral County, West Virginia.

Leaving the Northwestern Turnpike, (United States #50) at Route 220, at Burlington, travelers will follow The Memorial Road to Antioch, and into the secluded Amphitheater which nature has perfected and set aside as an ideal birthplace for Nancy Hanks, who has been called "The Madonna of The West Virginia Mountains."

## WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY

FRED C. ALLEN  
MARLINTON, W. VA.



J. LOUIS HAWKINS  
HUNTINGTON, W. VA.

CHARLESTON, W. VA.

March 3, 1936.

The Butterick Company,

161 6th Ave.,

New York City,

New York.

Gentlemen:-

I have read with a great deal of interest the article by T. R. Carskadon, under the caption of the "Mother of Lincoln". In fact read it twice.

I may be wrong but it is laid aside with the feeling that the Delineator is making a mistake in the publication of an article like this without the author checking his facts. It seems based entirely on what was set down by Herndon and the West Virginia chapter, I rather feel, is based upon nothing but that a man named Hanks once lived in this state. The general theme is one best passed over.

It is my impression that an investigation will disclose that the mother of Lincoln was not born in this state, but in "old" Virginia, and further that she was the perfectly legitimate result of a union of members of the family of Hanks and Shipleys.

Respectfully,

*Roy B. Cook*  
Roy Bird Cook.

7  
March 10, 1936

Mr. Roy Bird Cook  
West Virginia Board of Pharmacy  
Charleston, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Cook:

The duplicate copy of your letter to the Butterick Company of March 3 has been received and I assure you on Dr. Warren's return to the city that he will be interested to know of the interest you have shown in this article.

Sincerely yours,

MAC:LH  
M.A. Cook

Librarian



March 16, 1936

Mr. Roy Bird Cook  
West Virginia Board of Pharmacy  
Charleston, West Virginia

My dear Mr. Cook:

I am very much pleased indeed to note that you have written the Delineator with respect to the article under the caption "Mother of Lincoln."

I find that my speaking itinerary calls for engagements in Charleston on March 30 and 31st and I hope to see you at that time, and trust I may have further confirmation by then of the Hanks and Shipley contacts.

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH

Director

## Pen In Hand

*Charles W. Vo*

### LINCOLN'S MOTHER

Dear Editor:

We were short of amazed at the information offered by Roy Bird Cook in the Monday issue of this paper. We would suggest that he read the book entitled The Unknown Lincoln, 1932, and then revise his statistics. This book, delineating the birth of Nancy Hanks, the mother of Lincoln, in West Virginia, backs it up with record proof for the first time. It also refers to the West Virginia records where the circumstances are proved, and quotes Lincoln's own statements as to his ideas of his unknown grandfather. We haven't gone to those records to verify the story, but it carried conviction of its truth and we would suggest that Mr. Cook refer to those records, before sending out his statements, which are far-afield from this author's research, which we are convinced are facts. As we recall from memory, Lucy Hanks was the mother of Nancy—not her sister.

READER.

March 20, 1936

Editor Wheeling News-Register,  
Wheeling, W. Va.

Dear Sir:-

Attention has just been directed to an editorial in your paper which has to do with the connection of President Lincoln with West Virginia. The suggestion is also made that the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Lincoln, should be marked.

First -and knowing that my observation will not meet with public favor in some directions- the question of the birth of the mother of Lincoln on West Virginia soil is open to serious doubt. Second, it seems to have been forgotten that several years ago West Virginia appointed a commission and erected a very fine monument and bronze tablet on Mikes Run, near Keyser. Here one may read, "This tablet marks the site of the cabin where Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's mother, was born, 1782," etc.

The West Virginia Commission so appointed leaned heavily upon the testimony of the late Dr. W. E. Barton, long a Lincoln student. It later developed that the only basis for the action was that a family named Hanks had lived in the community, and had owned land on which this monument was erected. Our people, living in a state which had so many interesting contacts with Lincoln, at the time accepted this belief, and it was at least condoned by many local historians but not without some misgivings.

In the meantime and even to this day the "bar sinister" laid heavily upon the story of the Lincoln family. But with the numerous documents and records that were fast being located, the absurd stories that never appeared until the election of 1860, and then only by the romancing of Herndon, fast disappeared. As one able historian recorded, "Herndon then began to shake the genealogical tree of Lincoln's mother and alleged he found some spoiled fruit." But commenting further, says that no Lincoln student "will accept for a minute the conclusions of William Herndon"



March 20, 1936.

Editor Wheeling News-Register, - page 2.

in this connection. Yet, writers even in a recent issue of the Delineator, insist on repeating these yarns, and even removed the family to the hills of West Virginia to escape the "whispers of the neighbors."

Prior to 1933, it was recorded that discoveries about "Lincoln's maternal ancestry" show that the "Dolls Gap marker (West Virginia) has no connection whatever with the mother of Abraham Lincoln." The simple facts are that two families named Hanks and Shipley can be traced from Maryland into present Bedford county, Virginia, and then over the state line into Mecklenberg county, North Carolina. Joseph Hanks had a son James, who married Lucy Shipley. To this union was born a daughter Nancy. Her birthplace can be almost definitely fixed to this day. James Hanks died, and the widow Lucy, with her daughter Nancy, by 1789, moved to Kentucky. Here Lucy met and married Henry Sparrow, and Nancy Hanks married Thomas Lincoln.

It is not possible here to go into all the documentary details, but there seems no question at all of this statement.

Respectfully yours,

*Ref. Book*

June 12, 1936

Mr. Ross B. Johnston  
Director-Historic Marker Project,  
Court House  
Charleston, West Virginia

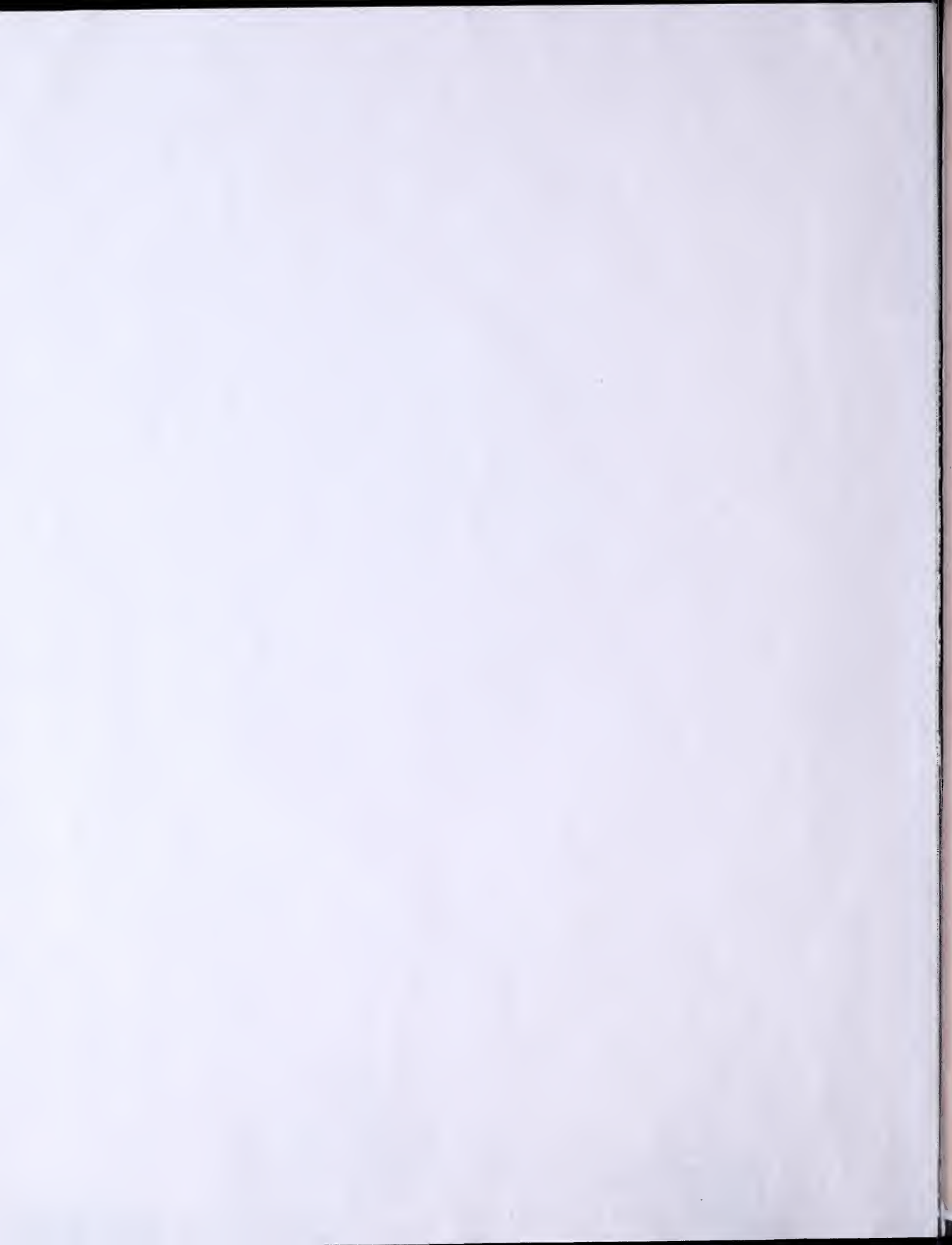
My dear Mr. Johnston:

I advised you that we were preparing a little story on the birthplace of Lincoln's mother, but upon gathering material I discovered that several years ago we covered the subject quite completely and you will please find enclosed photostat copy of the bulletin we prepared, which gives in some detail the discussions relative to the birthplace of Lincoln's mother.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB  
Enc. 1

Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation





LETTER

June 2, 1936

My dear Mr. Johnston:

Director Historic Marker Project

Court House

Charleston, West Virginia

My dear Mr. Johnston:

I compliment the Directors of the Historic Markers Project in their attempt to verify the inscriptions to be used on historical tablets before these tablets are permanently cast.

This has not always been done.

The marker which you contemplate placing on U.S. Highway 50 in Mineral County, West Virginia, as a memorial to Dr.

Barton, might be acceptable because he discovered that a certain

Joseph Hanks did settle in Mike's Run about 1782 and he did fix to his own satisfaction the birthplace of Nancy Hanks on Mike's Run; so that the tablet as worded, I expect, is correct.

As a historical marker designating the birth place of

Nancy Hanks, it appears to me, it is of no value whatever because there is not one shred of evidence of a documentary nature that

implies Nancy Hanks ever lived within several hundred miles of that spot and there is no connecting link available which indi-

cates that the Joseph Hanks of Richmond County, Virginia, the Joseph Hanks of Hampshire County, Virginia, now West Virginia, 1804, and the Joseph Hanks of Nelson County, Kentucky, are one and the same Joseph Hanks and there is much evidence to suggest that they are three separate Joseph Hankses with no connection whatever.

Secondly, there is no documents extant which will support the supposition that Lucy Hanks, mother of Nancy Hanks, was an only daughter of a Joseph Hanks, while on the other hand there are many documents which refute that, especially the will of Joseph Hanks in which he does not name Lucy among all his children.

Up to the time that Mr. Barton discovered the name of Joseph Hanks on the census report of Hampshire County, no member of the Hanks family, and there are hundreds of descendants, had ever suggested that the Hankses from whom Nancy Hanks descend ever lived in Hampshire County.





WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
CHARLESTON, W. VA.

HISTORIC MARKER PROJECT

COURT HOUSE

May 26, 1936.

Dr. L. A. Warren,  
Lincoln Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

Following is inscription that has been proposed for road-side marker on U. S. 50 in Mineral County a few miles from Keyser.

NANCY HANKS

Joseph Hanks settled beyond  
the gap in the mountains on  
Mike's Run about 1782. There  
Dr. W.E. Barton, noted authority  
on Lincoln, has fixed the  
birth place of Nancy Hanks,  
who was to become the mother  
of President Abraham Lincoln.

We would be glad to have a statement from you expressing your frank opinion as to the accuracy of this statement, or the advisability of using it. The commission which is seeking to mark the more important scenic and historic points of the State is being pressed to mark this spot and needs all possible support if it is to take the position that research has shown that Nancy Hanks was not born in West Virginia.

We will very much appreciate an early reply from you.

Very sincerely yours.

*Ross B. Johnston*  
Ross B. Johnston,  
Director Historic Marker Project

RBJ:VMC



PAUL G. ROUZER  
County Superintendent  
Phone 352-M  
J. G. SANDERS  
Assistant County Superintendent  
Residence Phone 240-W  
LUKE McDOWELL  
Clerk  
Residence Phone 454

## Mineral County Schools

Board of Education

Court House

Phone 347

Keyser, West Virginia

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Robt. W. Bass	Piedmont
Paul R. Wilson	Piedmont
George M. Loy	Keyser
L. N. Lyon	Elk Garden
Paul G. Rouzer, Secy.	Keyser

August 18, 1936

My Dear Cook:-

Some little time ago Mr. Johnston of the Historic Committee send me a copy of a letter his commission<sup>er</sup> had received from Dr. Warren of the Lincoln Foundation relative to a marker tablet concerning the Nancy Hanks birth-place.

I have been ~~away~~ the most of the time since receiving the letter and just today did I get time to read it carefully. I am enclosing to you copy of letter I have this day written to Mr. Johnston.

The only interest I have in the whole matter is to get the truth of the matter. The question ~~that~~ Nancy Hanks (the mother of Lincoln) was the illegitimate daughter of Lucy Hanks was was never disputed till a few years ago when Mrs. Caroline Hanks Hitchcock got out her little book on Nancy Hanks. This book, to the true historian or genealogist, the part not based on tradition, is pure fiction, and does not have have its basis ~~on~~ and record extant, in fact, records by the score, refute her very book. I shall enclose to you a list of the records from which the data of my letter is written.

With sincere best wishes, I remain,

very respectfully,

*J. G. Sanders*  
Mineral County Historical Society

Documentary references to information  
concerning the birth-place of "ancy Hanks-in  
letter to Ross B. Johnson, Historic Marker Committee  
Charleston W. Va. August 18, 1936

-----  
Holland's Lincoln

Ward H. Lamon, "The Life of Abraham Lincoln"-1872-

Herndon's Lincoln---lectures and book

Herndon and Weik (this collection of papers and correspondence  
on which the book is based, willed by Herndon  
to Weik were sold in New York, Last week)

First Census of U.S. (list of tithables for the state of  
Virginia by counties from 1782 to 1786)

County records of Nelson Co., Ky, Richmond Co., Va. and  
Amelia Co. Va.,

Nicolay & Hay-Life of Lincoln

Mercer County, Ky records

Bartons "Life of Abraham Lincoln, -Faterinty of Lincoln & othrs

Other state and County records of Ky, Ind. and Ill.



S. M. SCOTT, JR., PRESIDENT  
TERRA ALTA, W. VA.

C. W. COLLINS, VICE PRESIDENT  
PARKERSBURG, W. VA.

ROY B. COOK, SECRETARY  
CHARLESTON, W. VA.

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FRED C. ALLEN  
MARLINTON, W. VA.



J. LOUIS HAWKINS  
HUNTINGTON, W. VA.

CHARLESTON, W. VA.

August 20, 1936.

Dear Doctor Warren:-

The letters inclosed just came and  
I am leaving in few hours for a two weeks trip.

Would you be good enough to look  
over this material and send back to me later.

With kind regards,

Respectfully,

September 9, 1936

Mr. Roy B. Cook  
Box 710  
Charleston, West Virginia

My dear Mr. Cook:

You will please find on the attached slip of paper some comments on the Twelve Specific Statements which J. C. Sanders has made with respect to the birth-place of Abraham Lincoln.

I trust it may be possible for you to have a conference with him and discourage any permanent marking of the site by the Government until evidence is available which can be called authentic.

Very truly yours

LAW:LM  
Enc.

Director

ON J. C. SANIERS' COMMENTS ON BIRTHPLACE OF LINCOLN'S MOTHER

1. There is no documentary evidence available to prove that Joseph Hanks (son of Catherine) and wife, Ann, living in Richmond County in 1799, had more than one child. If there were others the records do not indicate it as Elisabeth is the only child named. The five sons and four daughters mentioned by Dr. Barton are children of Dr. Barton's imagination, created for the purpose of associating this Joseph Hanks with one or two other men of the same name.
2. There is no documentary evidence whatever which identifies the Joseph Hanks of Richmond County with the Joseph Hanks of Hampshire County. Such a conclusion, that they were one and the same, is a pure supposition on the part of Dr. Barton.
3. The Joseph Hanks Family of eleven (sex not stated) on the 1782 enumeration for Hampshire County most certainly does not "tally exactly" with the Richmond County family of three. On page 296 of his "Lineage of Lincoln" Dr. Barton admits that the first United States census for Virginia is incomplete. The enumerations for Virginia in 1782, 1783, 1784, as might be expected, are much more fragmentary, and to draw the conclusion that there was no other Joseph Hanks in the state because the name does not appear on the comparatively few list available is absurd.  
  
Dr. Barton admits that the lists of Bedford County, Va., had not been preserved (p. 300), and it is in this county especially where there was a large colony of Hankses.
4. Valid for Joseph Hanks of Hampshire County.
5. Valid for Joseph Hanks of Hampshire County.



6. The fact that Joseph Hanks name does not appear on any record in Virginia for 1784 or 1785 might suggest he did not longer exist, following the reasoning of Dr. Barton with reference to the absence of other Hanks' names on similar lists. All of the counties in the Kentucky country were in Virginia until 1792.
7. Admitted that Lincoln's mother was born between 1782 and 1784 and admitted that a certain Joseph Hanks lived on Miles Run in Hampshire County; these facts without any inference about the relation of the two individuals may be true.
8. There was a Joseph Hanks living in Nelson County, Virginia (later Kentucky) in 1787. How long he had been living there is problematical. There is no documentary citation for any date earlier including "1784" in connection with this Joseph Hanks. Dr. Barton would have us believe that the Joseph Hanks of Hampshire County and the Joseph Hanks of Nelson County were one and the same. This is the same type of an assumption which caused him to associate the Joseph Hanks in Richmond County with the Joseph Hanks in Hampshire County.  
  
There is not a single duly authorized document to show that these three Joseph Hanks living in widely separated counties were the one and the same Joseph Hanks. If the first and third could be proven to be the same or the first and second could be proven to be the same it would be of no avail. The second and third must be one and the same before we can even approach the question of the birthplace of Lincoln's mother, and even then the question of relationship of a certain Joseph Hanks and Nancy Hanks, mother of Lincoln, would be problematical.
9. The will of Joseph Hanks names eight children which the will states are all of his children. With the two parents this would make a family of ten. How many boys and how many girls were in the family of the Joseph Hanks of Hampshire County are not known, but Dr. Barton on pure assumption, after adding one girl, Lucy, to the Nelson County family, implies that the nine children in Hampshire County are five boys and four girls and even goes so far as to increase the one known girl in Richmond County to five sons and four daughters.



The only possible way to harmonize the two Joseph Hanks families, one in Hampshire County and the other in Nelson, is to add one girl to the Nelson County family already clearly defined by a duly authorized record and make your own choice in naming the sex of the nine children in the Hampshire family of Joseph Hanks.

10. If there is one single line in a duly authorized public record which furnishes "Documentary Proof" that Lucy Hanks is the daughter of Joseph Hanks of Nelson County, or the sister of the children Joseph Hanks named in his will, it is time it was presented for up to date no such document has appeared. As a fair set off to the folk lore and traditions of members of the Hanks family, others just as reliable contradict the statements of the within named.
11. In 1789 a Lucy Hanks was indicted for fornication but was never brought to trial and in the fact of the law is guiltless of the charge. She did not wait a year before marrying Henry Sparrow but was married on April 30, 1790, instead of April 30, 1791, as Dr. Barton has concluded from a miscopied record. The question of whether or not Lucy Hanks was a widow at the time of her marriage might be raised and supported with evidence which is as valid as that which claims she gave birth to an illegitimate child.
12. It is accepted generally that Nancy Hanks was the daughter of Lucy Hanks, but it is not accepted by many leading students of Lincoln that Nancy Hanks was an illegitimate child of a Miss Lucy Hanks.

Note - With reference to the comment about Mrs. Hitchcock, she will eventually be found more correct in her deductions than W. E. Barton, although she was mistaken about the identity of Lincoln's mother.

There was a Joseph Hanks who lived in Amelia County, Va., and a large colony of them in that part of Amelia which later became Bedford.

There was a Robert Shipley and family who lived in the same community and the marriage of some of his children is affirmed. Letters written by descendants of Joseph Hanks of Nelson County as early as 1894 claim Lincoln's mother was a daughter of James Hanks.

5  
Antioch. W. Va.

Aug 21 - 1936

Dr. Louis A. Warren.  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Sir

I am writing you to know if  
you or the Lincoln National Life  
Insurance Co. are interested in  
the Birth place of Nancy Hank.  
my Brother and my self are the  
owners of that property and we  
would like to sell it to the

Lincoln National Life Insurance  
Co if you would be interested in  
it Mr Vas Marshall at Williams  
port W Va told me about you and  
told me to write you he thought  
you mite take the matter up

there is hundreds and Thousands of  
people come to see this place from  
all over the United States

Tourist from every state comes to  
see the pracious place Veary smart  
people and they all say that we



(2)

Ought to sell it to Lincoln  
Life Insurance co or get the  
Government to buy it this is the  
first time we ever offered it for  
sal to any one we want to  
see some one get it that is  
conected with the Lincolns  
it has been in the Dolls Posistion  
for over 150 years that is a long  
time but the record show that  
now if you are intrested in  
this or if you know any one  
that is we will talk business  
with you I would like to see  
it get started while I am here  
there has been a small monument  
erected on the spot where the  
cabin stood and people are so  
anxious to see that spot  
if there is any thing that we  
can tell you that you all ready  
dond know about the place we will  
be glad to tell you or come and  
see for your self

And we be to Glad to tell you  
and show you what we know  
about it

will you please write me  
and advise me what you  
think about this matter I  
will appreciate a letter in  
regard to this

Hoping to hear from you soon

Yours Truly

W. W. Doll.



August 26, 1936

Mr. W. W. Doll  
Antioch, West Virginia

My dear Mr. Doll:

Your letter with reference to the probability of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company acquiring your property, is at hand.

I am quite sure that the Company would not be at all interested in the acquisition of the land but we thank you for calling the matter to our attention.

Very truly yours

LAW:LH

Director

## Nancy Hanks' cabin to be restored

By MARLA PISCIOTTA, Tribune Staff Writer

The Mineral County Historical Society voted to have Aaron Class of 1st Class Carpentry restore the porch of the Nancy Hanks cabin.

"Several years ago we made a decision to be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the cabin," said Frank Roleff, a member of the society.

The mother of Abraham Lincoln, Hanks lived in a one-room log cabin very much like the reproduction shown on the photograph. The original cabin was located along a stream of Mike's Run (Mineral County) off South Patterson Creek Road. That property site has been disturbed due to flood control.

"This cabin is a pretty close replica," said Roleff. It's not far from the original cabin. It is a one-room cabin made of logs, with a porch running the width of the cabin, on approximately 150 to 200 square feet of lawn. It is presently owned by the Nancy Hanks Farms Incorporated, and has been placed in Environmental Trust.

A monument sitting across from the cabin acknowledges the cabin and Lincoln's mother.

The society is paying for supplies to repair and restore the log cabin porch. Class is donating his time.

Senator Robert C. Byrd has expressed interest in this historical property. Other officials at the state level are equally interested and looking into the property becoming an historical state park.

The repair of the porch is the first phase to acknowledging Hanks. Tentative plans in the future is a celebration in 2009, when Abraham Lincoln will be 200-years-old.

According to reserach by the legislature, Nancy Hanks was born on the Doll farm on Mike's Run, a branch of Patterson Creek, at some date, not earlier than June 11, 1783, nor later than June 11, 1784. In 1929 a memorial stone was erected on the site of the cabin in which she was born. The memorial would later be moved in 1932 to the present site.

It has been documented that the logs used to build the original cabin were 34 feet long and were cut down to 27 feet.

Much of the information about Nancy Hanks came from her son, Abraham Lincoln, after he was elected to Congress. He was asked to write about the knowledge of his family. He wrote in a biography in 1860 that his father was 28 and his mother was in her 23rd year when they were married. His father, Thomas Lincoln, was born in Virginia and married Nancy Hanks, June 12, 1806.

Work on the cabin is schedule to be completed by fall of this year.



# Mineral Daily News-Tribune

Online from Keyser, West Virginia

Weather for Keyser



Cloudy  
Time: 09:00  
Temp: 40 F  
RealFeel Temp: 41 F  
Humidity: 95%  
Winds: ESE at 3mph

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Saturday, December 24, 2005

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### Historical cabin gets TLC

By MARLA PISCIOTTA  
Tribune Staff Writer

The Mineral County Historical Society has been given permission by the Nancy Hanks Home Owners Association to maintain and "upkeep" the historical Nancy Hanks Cabin, which is located on 15 acres of their property.

In recent years, the porch roof had fallen down and needed repaired, as well as preserved to it's original "look."

While working on a project in the area, Aaron Class, owner of 1st Class Carpentry, noticed the cabin and made mention of its condition to one of his customers.

The customer, Shirley Terrell, is an officer in the Mineral County Historical Foundation and spoke with the board of directors about the cabin. Following which, members of the board contacted Class to talk about repair. Class agreed to do the work.

Class has completed the demolition of the falling-down porch and roof and was able to salvage some of the unhued small tree trunks to frame rebuild it. He then sheeted it with rough sawn lumber donated by Society member Frank Roleff.

Class then finished the top of the roof with cedar shingles provided by the Historical Society.

The restoration/repair on the cabin is completed, according to Class, who



1st Class Carpentry owner Aaron Class is shown working on the final phases of renovation of the Nancy Hanks Cabin. Tribune photo/Donna Class



WEPKO

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PH: 301-359-3081

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donated his time and labor.

"After seeing the condition of the porch roof, I wanted to do what I could to help in its preservation," Class said.

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The mother of Abraham Lincoln, Nancy Hanks lived in a one-room log cabin very much like the one shown being restored. The original cabin was located along a stream of Mike's Run (Mineral County) off South Patterson Creek Road. That property site has been disturbed due to flood control.

The current cabin is a pretty close replica to the original Hanks cabin. It is a one-room cabin made of logs, with a porch running the width of the cabin. The home owner's association has the cabin in an environmental trust, according to Roleff.

It has been documented that the logs used to build the original cabin were 34 feet long and were cut down to 27 feet. Much of the information about Nancy Hanks came from her son, Abraham Lincoln, after he was elected to Congress.

- A monument sits across from the cabin acknowledging it as Lincoln's mother's cabin.

Senator Robert C. Byrd has expressed interest in this historical property. Other officials at state level are equally interested and looking into the property becoming an historical state park.

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